Claim Amendments:

Claim 1 (currently amended)   A method of receiving an item in an online environment from an online item provider without disclosing the real name and real address of the user to said online item provider, comprising:

connecting a computer to an Internet service provider,

running a browser on said computer,

accessing a first Web site using said browser,

entering and storing the user's real name and real address on said first Web site,

entering and storing a real credit card number associated with said real name and real address on said Web site,

storing a virtual name and virtual address on said first Web site[linked to said real name and real address],

providing said user with a virtual credit card number associated with said virtual name and virtual address,

linking said virtual name to said real name and said virtual address to said real address,

accessing a [second] Web site [of] operated by said online item provider and for presenting said item to said user,

selecting said item to be received by said user from said Web site operated by said online item provider, [and]

providing said virtual credit card number to said online item provider,

utilizing said virtual credit card number to receive a payment for said item selected,

shipping said item to said virtual name at said virtual address,

receiving said item at a location corresponding to said virtual address,

relabeling said item with said user's real name and real address by accessing said stored

information on said first Web site,

utilizing said real credit card linked to said virtual name and virtual address to receive a

shipping and handling payment, and

shipping said item to said real name at said real address.

[utilizing said virtual name and virtual address on said second Web site for shipping

information by said online item provider.]

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (original) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps

of:

providing said item to a shipper having access to a third Web site associated with said first

web site,

connecting to said third Web site and associating said virtual address with said real address,

and

delivering said item to said real address.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (cancelled).

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended) A method of providing, receiving and using preprinted [prepaid] mailing labels in an online environment utilizing a virtual name and virtual address for providing payment, comprising:

displaying a web page on a user computer connected to an internet service provider and

running a browser, said web page from a server hosting a first web page for

establishing a virtual name and virtual address and providing payment information;

entering and storing a real name, a real address and payment information on said Web site

for said user;

entering and storing a virtual name and virtual address on said Web site linked to said

payment information, and

providing [prepaid] shipping labels to said user preprinted with said virtual name, virtual

address, and an indicia encoding said virtual name, said virtual address, and a

payment web site address having a link to said first web site for accessing said

payment information.

Claim 13 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

applying said shipping labels to a package having a mailing address and mailing said package,

scanning said [barcode] <u>indicia encoding said virtual name, said virtual address, and a payment web site address having a link to said first web site for accessing said payment information,</u>

linking to said payment web site and posting a charge based on said payment information associated with said virtual name and virtual address, and

shipping said package to address on said package.

Claim 14 (original) A method of receiving goods in an online environment utilizing a virtual name and address, comprising:

connecting a computer to an Internet service provider,

running a browser on said computer,

accessing a first Web site for establishing a virtual name and virtual address using said browser,

storing the user's real name and real address on said Web site,

storing a virtual name and virtual address on said Web site linked to said real name and real address,

accessing a second Web site presenting goods of interest to said user,

selecting at least one of said goods to be received by said user,

providing said virtual name and virtual address to said second Web site for shipping

information,

labeling said goods with said virtual name and said virtual address,

providing said goods to a shipper having access to a third Web site associated with said first

Web site,

connecting to said third Web site and associating said virtual address with said real address,

and

delivering said goods to said real address.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 14 further

comprising the steps of:

providing [prepaid] shipping labels to said user preprinted with said virtual name, virtual

address, and an indicia encoding said virtual name, said virtual address, and a

payment Web site address having a link to said first Web site for accessing said

payment information.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 15 further

comprising the steps of:

applying said shipping labels to a package having a mailing address and mailing said

package,

scanning said indicia,

linking to said payment Web site and posting a charge _for shipping_ based on said payment

information associated with said virtual name and virtual address, and

shipping said package to address on said package.

Claim 17 (original) The method as claimed in claim 16 wherein said indicia is a

barcode.

Claim 18 (new) A method of protecting the privacy of shoppers by creating, in an

online environment, an e-box based on a user-generated alias which represents said user's real

name and real address, comprising the steps of:

connecting a computer to an Internet service provider,

running a browser on said computer,

accessing a first Web site using said browser,

entering and storing the user's real name and real address on said first Web site,

prompting user to create an e-box on said first Web site,

linking said e-box to said user's real name and real address and storing said

information on a database on said first Web site.

Claim 19 (new) Providing mail users with a method of postage payment, utilizing

an e-box, comprising the steps of:

displaying a Web site on a user computer connected to an Internet service provider,

entering and storing a real name, a real address, and payment information on said Web site

for said user;

creating and storing an e-box on said first Web site linked to said real name, real address,

and payment information, and

providing said user with the ability to order or print from said Web site postage labels

preprinted with said e-box name and/or indicia encoding said e-box.

Claim 20 (new) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

applying said postage labels to a letter or package having a mailing address, and mailing

said package or letter,

scanning, by a mailer, of said indicia encoding said e-box,

accessing, by said mailer, of scanned e-box account in the database on said Web site, and

posting a charge to said e-box account for postage amount corresponding to type,

weight, and class of said package or letter, and

shipping said package or letter to destination address on said package or letter.

Claim 21 (new) A method of receiving goods in an online environment utilizing an

e-box, comprising the steps of:

connecting a computer to an Internet service provider,

running a browser on said computer,

accessing a first Web site for storing the user's real name and real address on said Web site,

storing an e-box in database on said first Web site, linked to said real name and real

address, accessing a second Web site presenting goods of interest to said user,

selecting at least one of said goods to be received by said user,

providing said e-box to said second Web site for shipping information,